

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 AID-05 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-15 SP-02 L-02 NSC-05 /055 W

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R 201245Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9896

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 430

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PINS, SA

SUBJECT: USG SURVEY OF SAG MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

REF STATE 3601

1. AMBASSADOR WILL SEE DEPMININT PRINCE NAIF ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, AT WHICH TIME HE WILL PRESENT REQUEST FOR SURVEY FUNDS AND BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON TEAM MEMBERS. WILL ALSO RENEW WRITTEN REQUESTS OF DECEMBER 15 AND 31 FOR FUNDS TO CARRY PRESENT AID/OPS TEAM THROUGH MARCH 31.

2. APPRECIATE WASHINGTON'S CONCERN OVER CHOICE OF MECHANISM TO ASSIST MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IN IMPLEMENTING SURVEY RECOMMENDATIONS. PROPOSALS ASSUME, OF COURSE, THAT SAG WILL ASK OUR ASSISTANCE. THOUGH THIS MAY EVENTUALLY HAPPEN, IT MAY NOT BE AN IMMEDIATE DEVELOPMENT IN VIEW OF PRESENT DISSATISFACTION WITH OPS PERFORMANCE IN RECENT YEARS.

3. IF EXPERIENCE WITH MILITARY SURVEY IS ANY GUIDE, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WILL NOT RUSH TO REQUEST OVERALL IMPLEMENTATION OF SURVEY RECOMMENDATIONS BUT WILL DIGEST SURVEY SLOWLY AND PIECEMEAL. SINCE CORE OF SURVEY WILL BE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC SECURITY, IT MAY BE THAT SAG MIGHT WISH TO CONTRACT WITH PRIVATE FIRM FOR TECHNICAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE IN POLICE-RELATED SKILLS. IN SUCH CASE, HOWEVER, SAG WOULD NEED USG ASSIS-  
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TANCE IN DRAWING UP SPECIFICATIONS FOR CONTRACT BIDS, IN

EVALUATING BIDS, AND PERHAPS IN OVERSEEING CONTRACT. SAUDIS HAVE PREVIOUSLY RELIED UPON US ASSISTANCE IN CONTRACTOR SELECTION AND CONTRACT SUPERVISION IN SUCH MAJOR PROGRAMS AS NATIONAL GUARD, SAUDI ORDNANCE CORPS MOBILITY PROGRAM, CONSTRUCTION OF MILITARY CANTONMENTS AND DESALTING. WITHOUT IT, DOOR TO INFLATED ESTIMATES, CORRUPTION AND BAD PERFORMANCE REMAINS OPEN, AND USG WOULD BE BLAMED FOR ANY SHORTCOMINGS. IF BILLED AS "CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY TEAM" WE WOULD THINK THAT A SMALL TEAM MIGHT PERFORM A MOST USEFUL SERVICE WITHOUT RUNNING AFOUL OF CONGRESSIONAL SENSITIVITIES. THIS IS ALTERNATIVE B. ALTERNATIVE D, WHICH IS SAME APPROACH WITHOUT USG ADVICE, MIGHT ALSO BE POSSIBILITY. FOR EMBASSY'S BACKGROUND ONLY WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING BROCHURES FROM FIRMS WHICH HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN THIS TYPE OF WORK.

4. WE DOUBT THAT AN AMERICAN WOULD FIND THE SALARY CEILING IMPOSED ON SAG DIRECT-HIRE CONTRACTS ACCEPTABLE. (ALTERNATIVE C). LACKING ANY ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS BEHIND HIM, ANY SUCH ADVISOR WOULD PROBABLY SPEND A DISPROPORTIONATE AMOUNT OF HIS TIME COPING WITH HOUSING, MAINTENANCE AND TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS. WE OPPOSE THIS OPTION.

5. WE WILL KEEP PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES IN MIND IN ALL OF OUR TALKS WITH SAUDIS. SINCE OPS HAS NOT YET DEPARTED, HOWEVER, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREMATURE AT THIS POINT TO PUSH FOR SAG DEFINITION OF WHAT SHOULD REPLACE IT. AS SURVEY PROCEEDS, SAUDIS MAY BECOME MORE AWARE OF TYPES OF ASSISTANCE THEY MAY REQUIRE. IF SAUDIS CONCLUDE THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN HELP IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION, THEY MAY WELL CONCLUDE THAT THEY DON'T NEED OUR SURVEY--THAT SOME OTHER MORE COMPLIANT GOVERNMENT COULD BE FOUND. AKINS

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